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in color, and more or less thickly or thinly marked, but the narrow zigzag lines in the one case, and the almost wholly want of same upon the other kind, together with their deeper ground color, will, I think, be too apparent for doubt. In shape and measurement the eggs vary about alike, running from 3 to 3½ inches in length, by $1\frac{95}{100}$ to $2\frac{5}{100}$ inches in diameter.

I will further say of the eggs examined, the "white-eyed" were very uniform in color and markings, which was not the case with *L. Arra*, and as many of the birds nesting with the latter were blacker in color and their bills smaller, I am inclined to think further examination will prove them to be the true *Lomvia Troile*, and the ones I have spoken of as the "white-eyed," be restored to their former name, *Lomvia Ringvia*, and not an individual phrase of *L. Troile* as now thought and classified.

NOTES ON MELEAGRIS OCELLATA, CUVIER.

BY GEO. F. GAUMER, SANTA FÉ, NEW MEXICO.

Head and upper part of neck destitute of feathers, and sparsely covered with short bristles. There are about twenty-four fleshy processes arranged in two rows on the front part of the neck, and about twenty more of the same kind form two rows over the head; many smaller ones are scattered over the head. At the point of union of the bill with the head, there is a long fleshy process capable of much erection and distension. Behind this the fleshy scalp is permanently elevated, so as to form a flat-topped pyramid, with its greatest length from bill to occiput. The wing is comparatively small; the seventh primary is generally the longest; this, however, varies in different individuals, from the fifth to the seventh. The tail is composed of eighteen feathers, (and not fourteen as stated by authors;) these are graduated quite evenly, and diminish successively about three-quarters of an inch.

The tarsus is long and stout; anteriorly it is covered by a double row of pentagonal scales; there is also a double row of similar ones behind; the external row extends two scales below and the internal row just to the spur. The sides have small, oblong, oval and hexagonal scales. The male is provided with a long, sharp spur, the center of which is about two inches above the sole of the foot. It stands nearly perpendicularly to the tarsus, and is directed postero-internally. In the full-grown male the spur is about two inches in length, conical, slightly compressed, and decidedly curved upwards towards the tip. All the feathers are broad, and give a peculiar scaly appearance to the bird.

General color, dark metallic emerald-green. Every feather has a conspicuous terminal fringe of the most brilliant metallic gold and bronze. On the lower part of the neck the body of the feather is emerald green; between this and the narrow gold fringe is a narrower band of velvety black. The upper tail coverts, and tail feathers have about thirty narrow transverse bars of dark brown, alternating with an equal number of white ones, which are mottled with darker. In most of the specimens these bars are lost in the fine mottlings of gray. In addition to this, there is in the old male a distinct rufous tinge over all this part of the feather, more or less distinct according to age. The fringe, which rests on a solid band of burnished gold, is about three-quarters of an inch long, and is of the most brilliant metallic bronze, changing to an iridescent green. Between this and the gray mottling there is a double eye-spot of metallic blue, with purple reflections. These spots are very showy, and generally surrounded by a velvety-black band about three-sixteenths of an inch in width, the ends of which meet the shaft in such a way as to form a heavy, black, W-shaped figure. From the neck to the tail the plumage passes insensibly through all the gradations and changes from the simple markings and colorings of the former to the gorgeous beauty of the latter. The primaries are transversely barred with black and white. In all young specimens the black bars are wider, and the black prevails, while in the older specimens the white predominates. The larger wing-coverts, which form a conspicuous band on the wing, have their outer webs of a beautiful iridescent bronze color. The feathers of the breast and other under parts are deep black, with occasional reflections of green and purple, and each feather is tipped with bronze. The under tail-coverts have nearly the same markings as the upper, but the colors are if possible brighter and more striking. The naked skin of the head and neck is of a bright azure blue, except the fleshy processes, which are bright crimson or scarlet. Spurs and claws, dark horn-color; tarsus and toes, bright rose-color; iris, reddish-brown. Length, 40.12 inches; wing, 16.25; tail, 14.00; extent of wings, 48.00. The female differs from the male only in size, being very much smaller; the absence of the spur; the head, which is less ornamented, and the colors generally, which are possibly a little less brilliant and showy.

When seen at a distance and in the shade, the Golden Turkey is of a pure velvet-black color, but when he approaches the hunter in a brilliant tropical sunshine, with the tail spread and feathers raised, this most gorgeously attired of all American birds seems a miniature world of sparkling gems set in burnished gold, silver and bronze. Tongue cannot tell, pen describe, nor artist paint the splendor of its plumage.

This bird was once abundant in Yucatan, Guatemala and Honduras. At present it is seldom seen in the settled portions of the country, and is only occasionally met with in the uninhabited forests beyond the limits of civilization. It is the shyest of all living birds, is a swift runner and a good flier. It cannot be trapped, and can only be shot at night and when asleep, and then with the utmost caution in approaching, as it is easily startled, and flies as well at dead of night as at mid-day. Like all the turkeys, the *M. ocellata* is gregarious, and is sometimes seen in very large flocks. I once counted sixty-two roosting on three trees which stood closely together.

Each flock has a leader, who seems to control all its movements. At nightfall he selects a tall tree with suitable branches, and after finding a comfortable place for himself, his companions fly up one by one, until all are accommodated. When frightened, the leader utters a short, quick cluck, and the whole flock almost instantly disperses, each individual flying away to some distant tree, where alighting, he remains awake until morning. They spend the day upon the ground, where they find an abundance of food by scratching among the leaves. The Golden Turkey is omnivorous, feasting alike on grass, grains, fruits and insects. When in the fields he fills himself with corn, and is especially fond of the roots of the poison yucca, which is extensively cultivated for starch. In the forests he prefers the fruit of the sapote, and is equally delighted to find a nest of white ants, which he devours with avidity.

About the middle of May, the female builds her nest. She generally selects the top of a fallen tree, or other thicket, where she is safe from the jaguars and cougars. A slight excavation is first made in the ground, then a few small sticks and leaves are so loosely placed in and about it as scarcely to deserve the name of nest. When completed, the eggs appear, and as the days come and go the number increases until the nest contains from eight to sixteen. In size, shape and markings, these so closely resemble the eggs of the domesticated turkey that a description of them would be unnecessary. If frightened from the nest, the female never returns; but when unmolested, and the young chicks are all hatched, she becomes very bold, and will fight for her young even at the risk of her own life.

The Golden Turkey is much hunted by the natives of Central America for its fine flesh, so that at the present rate of extermination this beautiful bird must ere long become extinct. All attempts to domesticate it have failed, as well for the native as for the foreigner who has experimented with it. In 1879, while in southeastern Yucatan, I purchased more than two hundred of these eggs from the Indians. About half of the eggs were given to tame turkey hens to hatch, others were placed under common hens, while still others were hatched by artificial heat. Almost every egg hatched, and the young chicks for a time thrived and looked well. The ones hatched in the house first refused to eat, drooped their wings, and one by one all died. The broods were then distributed among the best Indian families, where I visited them occasionally; and although well cared for, before they were half grown all had died but six. These were the survivors of a brood of twelve, which had been let run at large with an old turkey hen. They lived in the woods, and became very shy. In the summer of 1881 these were taken to Tamax, a distance of about fifty leagues, where two of them soon died. The other four were again set free with their foster-mother; and before they became accustomed to the place, two of the four went to the woods and never returned. The other two I brought to New York in July, 1881, where they were sold to Messrs. Chas. Richie & Brother.